

Hudson

Shepherd in the Distance



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A Pantomime in Three Scenes

By HOLLAND HUDSON



STEWART KIDD . MODERN PLAYS . EDITED BY FRANK SHAY



#### TO BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY

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The Shepherd in the Distance

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A PANTOMIME IN THREE SCENES

#### By HOLLAND HUDSON

First produced by the WASHINGTON SQUARE PLAYERS at the Bandbox Theatre, New York City



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## The Shepherd in the Distance

#### By Holland Hudson

THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE was first produced by the Washington Square Players, at the Bandbox Theatre, New York City, on the night of March 26, 1915, with the following cast:

| THE PRINCESS               | .Frances Paine     |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| THE ATTENDANT              | . Beatrice Savelli |
| THE SHEPHERD               | .Robert Locker     |
| THE WAZIR                  | Arvid Paulson      |
| THE VIZIER                 | John Alan Houghton |
| GHURRI-WURRI (the Beggar). | Harry Day          |
| THE GOAT                   | E. J. Ballantine   |
| SLAVES OF THE PRINCESS     | Josephine Niveson  |
|                            | Edwina Behre       |
| THE MAKER OF SOUNDS        | .Robert Edwards    |

Produced under the direction of William Pennington. Scenes and costumes designed by Robert Locker.

#### **PROGRAM**

#### THE PERSONS

THE PRINCESS

THE ATTENDANT

THE SLAVES

THE WAZIR [her guardian]

THE VIZIER

THE NUBIAN

THE SHEPHERD

THE GOAT

Ghurri-Wurri

THE MAKER OF SOUNDS

#### THE ACTION

- I. The Princess beholds The Shepherd in the Distance and goes in quest of him.
- II. Ghurri-Wurri, enraged by the Princess' meagre alms, swears vengeance.
- III. He reveals her destination to the Wazir.
- IV. Pursuit ensues.
  - V. The Princess meets The Shepherd in the Distance. Her capture is averted by the faithful Goat.
- VI. The Goat's long head evolves a means of rescuing The Shepherd from the cruel Wazir.
- VII. The Princess joins The Shepherd in the Distance.

#### THE

### SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE

#### THE STORY1

Of the Princess, we know only that she was fair and slender as the lily, that somehow the fat and stupid Wazir became her guardian, and that he neglected her utterly and played chess eternally in the garden with his almost-equally-stupid Vi-

zier. Is it any wonder she was bored?

One afternoon the Princess called for her ivory telescope, and, placing it to her eye, sought relief from the deadly ennui which her guardian caused. In the Distance she discerned a Shepherd, playing upon his pipe for the dancing of his favorite Goat. While he played the Princess marveled at his comeliness. She had never seen before a man so pleasing in face and person. At the end of his tune it seemed to her that the Shepherd turned and beckoned to her. She dared watch him no longer, lest her guardian observe her.

When the Wazir, the Vizier and the Nubian were deep in their afternoon siesta, the Princess stole out of the garden with her personal retinue and her small but precious hope chests, and set

forth toward the Distance.

Now on the highway between the foreground and the Distance lived a wretched and worthless beggar who had even lost his name and was called Ghurri-Wurri because he looked absolutely as miserable as that. He pretended to be blind and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>A synopsis for readers only.

wore dark spectacles. The greatest affliction of his life was that his dark spectacles prevented him from inspecting the coins that fell on his palm, and he received more than his share of leaden counterfeits.

When Ghurri-Wurri observed the approach of the Princess and her retinue he reasoned from the richness of their attire that alms would be plentiful and large and he fawned and groveled before them. The Princess was generous, but she was also in haste, so bade her attendant give him the first coin that came to hand, and hurried on.

Ghurri-Wurri's rage knew no bounds. He wept, he stamped, he shook his fists, he railed, and he cursed. Then, perceiving the Princess' destination, he made haste to notify her guardian. The Wazir would not believe him at first and the beggar would have lost his head if he had not happened on the Princess' telescope and placed it in the Wazir's hand.

Gazing toward the Distance, the Wazir saw the Princess and her retinue nearing their destination. He lost his temper and did all of the undignified things which Ghurri-Wurri had done. Then, with the Vizier and the Nubian, he set forth in pursuit, forcing the reluctant Ghurri-Wurri to guide them. They ran like the wind, till the beggar gasped and staggered, only to be jerked to his feet and forced on by the implacable Vizier, who was cruel as well as stupid.

Meanwhile the Princess arrived in the Distance. The Shepherd, who was as wise as he was comely, had proper regard for her rank and danced in her honor to his own piping. They had scarcely spoken to each other when the faith-

end Pg

ful Goat warned them of the furious approach of the raging Wazir. The Goat carried the Princess to a place of safety on his back while the Shepherd stayed to delay her pursuers. Of the Nubian he made short work indeed, but the Vizier overcame him with his great scimitar and they led him captive to the garden, leaving Ghurri-Wurri cursing on the sands.

Arrived at the garden, the Wazir ordered the Shepherd bound in chains and went on with his chess game. The Shepherd, in a gesture of despair, came upon the Princess' telescope and, seeking some ray of hope, gazed into the Distance. Here he saw the Princess and his faithful Goat, who, he perceived, had invented a plan for his

deliverance.

Soon the Princess returned to the garden, but disguised as a wandering dancer. She danced before the Wazir and pleased him so much that he bade her come nearer. She did so, and bound the Vizier's arms with a scarf, which so amused the Wazir that he laughed loud and long. Then she bound the Wazir's arms in the same manner and it was the Vizier's turn to laugh. Into their laughing mouths she thrust two poisoned pills, so that in another instant they fell over, quite dead, amongst the chessmen.

The omnivorous Goat delivered the Shepherd from his chains with his strong teeth and they all returned to the Distance, where they still dwell in more-than-perfect bliss and may be discerned through an ivory telescope any fine afternoon.

#### CONCERNING THE SCENERY

In the original production by The Washington Square Players, THE SHEPHERD IN THE DIS-TANCE was played in front of backgrounds of black velvet. The garden scene consisted of a black velvet drop about half-way between the curtain and back-wall, upon which a decorative white design merely suggesting the garden and its gate was appliquéd. This drop was made in three sections, the middle one hung on a separate set of lines so that it could be raised to show the "Distance" (as seen through the telescope) without disturbing the rest of the scene.

The "Distance" consisted of a velvet drop hung slightly behind the middle section of the garden scene, on the middle of which two large, white concentric circles were appliquéd around a circular opening about five feet in diameter. The bottom of the opening was about eighteen inches above the stage. Behind this stood a platform just large enough to hold four characters at one time. Black masking drapes were provided at both sides of the stage and behind the platform.

The Prologue, Scenes II, IV, V, the first part of Scene VII and the Epilogue were all played before a plain velvet drop hung a few feet up-

stage of the curtain line.

THE SHEPHERD IN THE DISTANCE has also been produced in colors very effectively by the Hollywood Community Theater, at Hollywood, California. There is no reason why any highly decorative treatment of scenery and costuming will not enhance the production if it be well planned and consistent throughout.

#### IMPORTANT PROPERTIES

The properties consist principally of a small chess table with most of the chessmen glued on, two stools, a telescope, a balloon and papier-maché chain, which are employed as a ball and chain, a very large Chinese crash cymbal for the stage manager's use, and such personal properties as occur in the text.

#### COSTUMES AND MAKE-UP

Whatever scheme is selected for the scenery, the costumes and make-up should be consistent with it. In the original production, all of the characters but the Nubian were made up completely with clown white or "Plexo," the eyebrows and eyes outlined in black and the mouths rouged but slightly. No unwhitened flesh was visible.

The Princess wore a white satin pseudo-Oriental costume with stiff ruffs at the collar, wrists and knees, the trousers not gathered at the ankles, a flat, close-fitting turban with a number of ornaments and a hanging veil, and white slippers. In the dance in Scene VI she used a long, black gauze scarf and a white one. Her attendant wore a similar costume of cheaper material, an unornamented turban and black slippers. Her slaves were also similarly garbed, in cotton, but with bulkier turbans, and baggy trousers, gathered at the ankles.

The Wazir, armed with a preposterous "corporation," wore baggy white trousers, gathered at the ankles, a sleeveless vest with wide, horizontal black-and-white stripes, a white cloak hanging from his shoulders which terminated in a large,

black tassel, a turban, a beard made of several lengths of black portiere cord sewed to white gauze, and white, pointed shoes. His bare arms were whitened, his eyebrows were short, thick and high up on his forehead, and he carried a black snuff-box.

The Vizier's white trousers were not so full as the Wazir's; his tight, white vest had tight, white sleeves; his cloak was shorter and without a tassel. His white turban, however, was decorated with antennæ of white milliner's wire. He affected high-arching eyebrows, a long, pointed nose, a drooping moustache, and a disdainful mouth; carried a white, wooden scimitar about four feet long with a black handle, and wore bells on his pointed, white shoes.

The Nubian wore black tights and shirt, black slippers and a white skull cap and breech-clout. The rest of him, excepting his eyes and mouth, which were whitened, was a symphony in burnt

cork.

The Shepherd wore white, knee-length trunks, frayed at the ends, a little drapery about the upper man, slippers and a cap. His body was whitened

abundantly and he carried a tiny flute.

The Goat wore a white, furry skin, horns and foot and hand coverings resembling hoofs. His make-up approached the animal's face as nearly as possible.

Ghurri-Wurri wore tattered, white, baggy trousers, vest and cloak, a turban and black gog-

gles.

The Maker of Sounds was garbed in an allenveloping white burnous and a white skull-cap.

#### A FEW STAGE DIRECTIONS

Left to right, in this text, refers to the actor's, not the spectator's, point of view. The action of the piece is meant to be two-dimensional; the actors are to perform in profile as far as possible, except when registry of facial expression is important; the action should be parallel with the

back drop.

The entire action must be rhythmical and the rhythms should be used as definite themes, one for the Princess and her retinue, another for the Wazir, etc. The performance should be extremely rapid and must never drag. The cast should direct special attention to the comic features, and the director to the pictorial elements of the piece. The director may consider the performance as an animated poster which moves rapidly from design to design.

#### A Pantomime

#### By HOLLAND HUDSON

#### **PROLOGUE**

[The curtain rises on a plain drop curtain. The Maker of Sounds enters with his arms full of instruments, crosses the scene and sits with his back against one side of the proscenium, outside the curtain line. He tries out all his instruments, wind, string, percussion and "traps." He yawns. He becomes impatient and raps on the stage.]

Cymbal crash The lights go out

The drop is lifted in the dark-

ness

Cymbal crash The lights are turned on

#### - SCENE I -

[The Wazir's garden. Discovered left to right, the Nubian, standing with folded arms, the Vizier, seated at the chess table, playing with the Wazir. At the other side of the stage, the Princess, her attendant, her two slaves. All stand motionless until set in action by the Maker of Sounds.]

The Music

The Pantomime, etc.

Tap—on Chinese Nubian unfolds his arms wood block

Tap He salaams

Tap Resumes original pose

| The Music       | The Pantomime, etc.  |
|-----------------|--|
| Tap             | Vizier moves a chessman  |
| Tap             | Wazir moves a chessman   |
| Tap             | Vizier moves a chessman  |
| Tap             | Wazir picks up snuff-box   |
| Tap             | Opens it   |
| Tap             | Offers Vizier snuff  |
| Tap             | Vizier takes a pinch   |
| Sand blocks     | Sniffs it  |
| Drum crash      | Vizier sneezes   |
| Drum crash      | Sneezes again  |
| No sound        | Sneezes again Nubian sneezes synchronously with Vizier's paroxysms   |
| Tap             | Vizier returns snuff-box   |
| Tap             | Wazir puts it away   |
| Bell            | Princess yawns   |
| Tap             | Signals her attendant  |
| Tap             | Attendant picks up telescope   |
| Tap             | Hands it to Princess   |
| Wind instrument | Princess uses telescope [The middle portion of the back drop is lifted to show the "Distance" in which the Shepherd is discovered piping for the Goat's dancing] |

| •  |
|--|
| The Pantomime, etc.  |
| The Shepherd sees the Princess, stops piping, and declares his adoration across the distance. He beckons her to join him |
| Princess promises to do so [The lifted portion of the drop is lowered again. The "Distance" van- ishes]                  |
| Princess signals to her retinue  |
| Attendant relays the signal  |
| Slaves stoop   |
| Lift the hope chests to their shoulders  |
| Princess and retinue take one step downstage   |
| All lean forward, watching Wazir   |
| Wazir and Vizier stand up  |
| They glare at Princess   |
| They sit   |
| Vizier yawns   |
| Wazir yawns  |
| Nubian yawns   |
| Vizier nods  |
| Wazir nods   |
| Nubian drops on one knee   |
|  |

The Music The Pantomime, etc. Treble chord Princess and retinue lean forward. Bass chord They take one step [A continuation of this business. Takes them off at the left] The lights go out Cymbal crash [In the darkness, Princess and retinue cross to right of stage, ready for Scene III The plain drop is lowered Cymbal crash The lights come up - SCENE II --jin- Ghurri-Wurri discovered Tambourine above at center, with his gles dark glasses pushed up on his forehead, counting his money Tap on piece of He finds a bad coin crockery

Bites it

Sand blocks

Throws it away Tap crockery

cess rhythm on Chinese wood block

Begins the Prin- Hears the Princess retinue approaching

He pulls glasses over his eyes

The Music

The Pantomime, etc.

Telegraphically expressed it is:

He grovels

Musically, a c - cented triplets, common time, presto

time, Princess and retinue enter from the right

Princess rhythm continues

rhythm They pass by Ghurri-Wurri s without pause

Drum crash

Ghurri-Wurri runs ahead and prostrates himself before the Princess

Tap

Princess' retinue halts

Тар

Princess signals to attendant Attendant signals to nearest

Тар

slave
Slaves proffer chest

Tap, Tap, Tap

Attendant opens it, takes coin, closes it

Тар

Gives coin to Princess

Tap on crockery

Princess drops coin in beggar's hand

Princess rhythm

Princess and retinue exit at

Begin drum roll pp. cresc. to ff.

Ghurri-Wurri looks at coin, scrambles to his feet, looks after Princess, shakes his fist, starts to the right, turns, shakes his fist again, exits at right, raging.

The Music The Pantomime, etc.

Cymbal crash Lights out

In the darkness Ghurri-Wurri crosses to left of stage,

ready for Scene III

The drop is lifted

Cymbal crash Lights up

#### - SCENE III -

[The Wazir's Garden as in Scene I]

Bass chords Wazir, Vizier and Nubian asleep as before

Tap on drum Ghurri-Wurri enters at the

left

Tap on drum Prostrates himself before

Wazir

Bass chord Wazir and Court sleep on

Tap on drum Ghurri-Wurri again pros-

trates himself

Bass chord The Court sleeps on

Drum crash Ghurri-Wurri slams himself

down hard

Drum crash Wazir, Vizier, Nubian awake

Drum roll Wazir shakes his fist at the

Wazir shakes his fist at the beggar

Wood-block tap Signals Vizier

Sand blocks Vizier runs thumb along his

scimitar blade

Tap Ghurri-Wurri retreats to the

right

| The Music   | The Pantomime, etc.  |
|---|--|
| Tap   | He stumbles over the telescope   |
| Tap, tap  | He picks it up and hands it to the Wazir   |
| Tap   | Ghurri-Wurri points to the "Distance"  |
| Tap   | The Wazir uses the telescope   |
| Princess rhythm   | The "Distance" is revealed as in Scene I   |
|   | Princess and retinue are seen<br>traveling [across the plat-<br>form from right to left]   |
| Tap   | The Wazir lowers the tele-   |
|   | scope  |
|   | The "Distance" vanishes as in Scene I  |
| Drum crash  | Wazir stamps his foot  |
| Drum roll   | He shakes his fists, first at the  |
| Dium ion  | "Distance," then off left  |
| Tap   | Points at Ghurri-Wurri   |
| Тар   | Vizier seizes Ghurri-Wurri by the scruff of the neck   |
| Tap   | Vizier points off left with his scimitar   |
| Wazir rhythm on wood-drum. Telegraphically stated: etc. | The Court and Ghurri-Wurri begin to run, Nubian first, then Ghurri-Wurri, then Vizier, then Wazir. The running is entirely vertical in movement, no ground being covered at all. |

The Music

Musically, ac- Lights out notes in 2/4 time, presto Cymbal crash Cymbal crash

The Pantomime, etc.

eighth [In the darkness, the runners move downstage without losing step. A plain drop is lowered behind them?

Lights on.

#### - SCENE IV -

crescendo and acceleramento

Wazir rhythm, The runners increase their speed throughout the scene Ghurri-Wurri slips to his knees

> Vizier, without losing a step, jerks him back on his feet Ghurri-Wurri, pointing left, resumes running

Wazir points left

When the runners have reached their maximum speed

Cymbal crash

The lights go out

In the darkness the Wazir's court and Ghurri-Wurri exit and take their places at the right ready for Scene V

The Shepherd and Goat take their places

Cymbal crash

Lights up

#### - SCENE V -[A plain drop]

The Pantomime, etc. The Music

The Shepherd is discovered Wind instrument well to the left, piping for the Goat

Goat is dancing

Begin Princess rhythm

Goat stops to listen, looks off to the right Shepherd looks to the right

Goat crosses to extreme right, bows

Princess and retinue enter

They halt Tap

Tap Stringed instru-

ment roll

Drum crescendo

Princess rhythm

Tap

Wazir rhythm

Tap Tap The Shepherd kneels to the Princess, then dances for her

pp. The Goat becomes alarmed All turn and look to the right Goat, on all fours, offers his back to the Princess

Shepherd induces

Princess to sit on Goat's back Goat exits, followed by Prin-

cess' retinue

Shepherd folds his arms

Wazir's Court and Ghurri-Wurri enter from the right

They halt

Wazir points to Shepherd

The Pantomime, etc. The Music Vizier brandishes his scimitar Tap Drum roll Nubian approaches Shepherd Drum crash Nubian falls Drum roll Wazir shakes his fists Crescendo Points at Shepherd Vizier attacks Shepherd with to scimitar Shepherd grasps scimitar They struggle, conventionally, one, two, three, four, five, six The Shepherd falls Drum crash Drum roll The Vizier waves his scimitar aloft Wazir exults Drum roll Tap Nubian rises Wazir points to the right Tap Vizier points at Shepherd Tap with scimitar Nubian seizes the Shepherd Tap Wazir rhythm Wazir's Court and Shepherd exit at the right, ignoring Ghurri-Wurri, Nubian and Shepherd first, then Vizier, then Wazir. [All cross behind the drop to left of stage ready for Scene VI] Drum crash Ghurri-Wurri stamps his foot Drum roll Shakes his fists after them

The Music The Pantomime, etc.

Drum roll Runs to left and shakes his

fists at the Princess

Drum roll Runs to right and shakes them

at the Wazir

Runs to center and s h a k e s them at the audience

them at the a

Cymbal crash Lights out

Ghurri-Wurri exits The drop is raised

Cymbal crash Lights on

#### - SCENE VI -

[The Wazir's garden. No characters on scene]

Wazir rhythm Nubian enters from left, holding the Shepherd

Wazir and Vizier follow

Tap Wazir takes his seat, smirking

Tap Wazir orders Shepherd

thrown down at the right

Drum crash Nubian complies

Tap Vizier orders Nubian off right

Wazir rhythm, Nubian hurries out

Wazir rhythm, Roslow

Re-enters, staggering under a ball and chain [the chain of papier-maché and the ball a balloon]

Drum crash Drops these beside the Shepherd

| The Music      | The Pantomime, etc.  |
|----------------|--|
| Clank, clank   | Rivets chain to Shepherd's leg   |
| Tap            | Rises  |
| Tap            | Vizier orders Nubian off, left   |
| Wazir rhythm   | Nubian exits left  |
| Tap            | Vizier sits  |
| Tap            | Wazir moves a chessman   |
| Tap            | Vizier moves a chessman  |
| Tap            | Shepherd, in a gesture of despair, finds the telescope   |
|                | He looks into the "Distance" [The "Distance" is shown as in Scene I]   |
| Stringed music | Princess and Goat discovered in conference, Goat has an idea: He points to the Shepherd, then to the Wazir, then to the Princess, and executes an ancient dance movement, which is contemporaneously described as the "shimmy"  The Princess claps her hands |
|                | and exits, followed by the<br>Goat   |
| Tap            | Shepherd lowers the tele-<br>scope<br>[The "Distance" vanishes]  |
| Tap            | Shepherd is puzzled  |
|                | 2 5  |

| The Music                       | The Pantomime, etc.   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Stringed music                  | Princess enters from the left,<br>veiled and carrying a scarf<br>in her hands                           |
|                                 | Goat enters with her, goes at once to the Shepherd  |
|                                 | Princess poses at center  |
|                                 | Wazir and Vizier turn, smirking   |
|                                 | Princess dances   |
|                                 | Wazir leers and strokes his beard   |
|                                 | Princess ends dance beside<br>Vizier  |
| Chords, agitato                 | She ties his arms with her scarf  |
| Sand blocks                     | Wazir is convulsed with laughter  |
| Chords                          | Princess binds Wazir's arms with her veil   |
| Sand blocks                     | Vizier is convulsed with laughter   |
| Princess rhythm<br>on wood drum | The Attendant enters from<br>the left with a box on which<br>a skull and cross-bones are<br>conspicuous |
| Tap                             | Princess takes two pills from the box   |
| Tap                             | She pops them into her prisoners' open mouths   |
| Princess rhythm                 | The Attendant exits as she came   |
|                                 | 26  |

| The Music     | The Pantomime, etc.   |
|---------------|---|
| Sand blocks   | Wazir and Vizier swallow vigorously   |
| Drum crash    | They lay their heads upon the chess table and die   |
| Tap           | Princess beckons to the Shepherd  |
| Tap           | Shepherd points to his fetters  |
| Tap           | Goat attacks the ball and chain   |
| Drum crash    | He "bites" the ball [bursts the balloon]  |
| Tap           | He "bites" the chain  |
| String music  | Princess, Shepherd and Goat dance in a circle Lights out  |
| Cymbal crash  | Princess and Shepherd and Goat ready at left for next scene                                     |
|               | The drop is lowered   |
| Cymbal crash  | Lights up   |
| — SCENE VII — |   |
| String music  | Princess and Shepherd dance across, followed by the Goat, who is playing on the Shepherd's pipe |
|               | Princess and Shepherd, behind the drop take their   |
|               | places on the platform  |
| Cymbal crash  | Lights out  |
|               | [The drop is lifted]  |

The Music The Pantomime, etc.

Cymbal crash Lights on [The Wazir's garden with

the middle section of the drop lifted to show the

"Distance"]

String music Shepherd and Princess discovered in the "Distance"

ered in the "Distance"

posed in a kiss

Cymbal crash Lights out

[The drop is lowered]

Cymbal crash Lights on

The Maker of Sounds rises, yawns cavernously, bows very slightly and exits

[Curtain]

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